

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to announce that I have just introduced legislation making it possible for every legal immigrant serving on active duty in America's Armed Forces to become a U.S. citizen immediately. Not in 3 years or 5 years, but immediately.

Once this bill is enacted, providing that all other requirements are met, on the same day that a young person is mustered into duty in our Armed Forces, he or she will be able to take the oath of office making them a citizen of the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, these patriotic men and women have willingly volunteered to carry out one of the most solemn duties that any nation can ask of its citizens, the defense of freedom. Thus, more than most, I believe that they have truly earned their opportunity to become citizens of the country whose uniform they wear so proudly.

By enacting the Armed Services Citizens Act, America can do the right thing for some very brave men and women who are doing the right thing for America. So, Mr. Speaker, let us recognize their love of this country by enabling legal immigrants serving America's Armed Forces to become citizens before, not after, they begin risking their lives to defend ours.

GETTING THE ECONOMY GROWING AGAIN

(Mr. WEXLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, to get our economy growing again, we need policies that encourage investment and job creation, especially in high-technology industries like telecommunications.

Just this past month, FCC Chairman Powell tried to encourage more facilities-based competition in the local exchange markets. That balanced approach, however, was abandoned in favor of keeping most of the old rules and regulations, despite predictions that it would discourage plant upgrades, new network installation, and new jobs. Surprisingly, the White House was silent when the plans of its own FCC chairman were sidelined.

Mr. Speaker, the Clinton administration took a strong pro-growth, pro-jobs approach in the technology and telecom sector. The Bush administration, in contrast, seems wedded to an almost unchanging policy of benign neglect. I have over 50 facilities and 900 workers in my district that cannot tolerate this benign neglect. Under the present administration, America has lost \$2 trillion in the telecommunications industry, computer investment has been erased, and 300,000 American technology workers have lost their jobs.

TRIBUTE TO DENTON HIGH SCHOOL'S LADY BRONCOS

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, it turns out the third time was a charm for the women's soccer team of Denton High School in Denton, Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want today to recognize the Lady Broncos, Denton High School's women's soccer team, for winning their first State title this past Saturday.

Freshman Ashley Hornisher scored the game-winning goal after receiving a corner kick from sophomore Lisa Stephens in order to win the Class A State championship.

Coach Iseed Khoury, who led the Lady Broncos in a 28-2 season, said "This is the result of all the hard work our kids have put in over the years. We're a powerhouse now."

Denton senior Julie Naugher, a midfielder, was named the State tournament's Most Valuable Player. Ashley Wilson, a sophomore midfielder, sent a free kick from 40 yards out to Naugher in the box, who then headed the ball into the goal to tie the game in the first half.

Mr. Speaker, I especially want to recognize the Denton Lady Bronco seniors: Erin Cadenhead, Jennifer Dower, Julie Naugher, Annie Lowe, Callie Lawing, JennMia Nilsson, Katherine Clark, Christine Hornisher, and Bente Bekkhus.

I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring these fine young ladies and congratulating them on a season of hard work and commitment that paid off.

CREATING NEW JOBS

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to echo what other speakers on both sides of the aisle have talked about, talking about jobs, creating new jobs, saving jobs now in jeopardy as our economy continues to deteriorate.

I am privileged to represent one of the most ethnically diverse districts in the Nation. Jobs in my district prove that the American dream is alive and well and that anything is possible through hard work.

On February 20, the FCC had an opportunity to create and save jobs while boosting the economy. Since 2000, we have lost 2½ million jobs in this country. Instead, this decision means job losses in the long term, for the Nation's telecom sector and for my home State of Illinois.

The FCC's decision also means companies will not be able to make critical investments in the area of broadband deployment. It means an entire segment of the U.S. economy faces a future of uncertainty for its employers

and customers. The job-loss message was heard loud and clear. One analyst of the industry wrote, and I quote, "Usually a decision of this magnitude would bring with it greater certainty and clarity. Yet, in this instance, we believe the issue is as confused and as uncertain as ever."

Mr. Speaker, I encourage the administration to remember that uncertainty leads to job loss, both on Main Street and on Wall Street.

CITIZEN PATRIOTISM

(Mr. TERRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, perhaps more than ever in our Nation's history, at least since the Revolutionary War, our citizens are rising up to their responsibilities to be on guard and report suspicious behavior and activities. Often these patriotic deeds go unnoticed and unheralded. This is true of one such person in my district.

Harvey Rothman, a resident of Omaha, Nebraska, in 1987 was working as a trade specialist for the U.S. Department of Commerce. During that time, he received a phone call from a businessman who believed that some of his product was being delivered illegally to the country of Libya.

Based on that information, Mr. ROTHMAN brought the businessmen together with the Commerce's Department of Export Administration. That led to an investigation revealing that \$275,000 in steel pipe was being diverted from Hanover, Germany, to the terrorist country Libya. As a result, an additional quarter million dollars' worth of product destined to this same terrorist country was canceled.

Mr. Speaker, I bring this story to the attention of the House now not to give Harvey Rothman a pat on the back, which he has deserved over these past many years, but because it is a wonderful example to all our citizens that their watchfulness and vigilance could save lives and stop our enemies from terrorist acts.

□ 1030

GO HUSKIES

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the UConn Huskies for winning their fourth NCAA women's basketball championship and their third in four seasons. The victory is inspirational because the Huskies overcame incredible odds, having only one starting player return from last year's championship team.

With this title victory, there can be no doubt that our Huskies are certain to be remembered as one of the greatest basketball teams in sports history.

The people of Connecticut are justly proud of their Huskies, who have set an example for us all with their teamwork and their standards of perfection. I know this victory was a team effort; but we are particularly proud of Maria Conlon from Derby, Connecticut, of the third congressional district, and Diana Taurasi, a fellow daughter of Italian immigrants, who was named the Final Four Most Outstanding Player and Consensus National Player of the Year after she scored the third most points in Division I tournament history, the fourth-most ever in the Final Four, and tied for second-most ever in a title game, all with an aching back, one good ankle and a heart whose size is only matched by that of the Huskies' dreams.

These women have shown that given the resources, they are just as talented and exciting to watch as any men's basketball team out there. They are role models for girls and boys alike across this Nation, and we should remember them as we debate title IX and its impact on women in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Huskies on their championship win and their incredible season. They have truly earned this recognition. Go Huskies.

JUST BORN CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEEPS

(Mr. TOOMEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer congratulations to the confectioners at Just Born, Incorporated, as they celebrate the 50th anniversary of one of their most recognized and celebrated products, not to mention my daughter's favorite, Marshmallow Peeps.

Just Born, with their Peeps, is a great American manufacturing success story. Over a billion Peeps are produced each year by Just Born's 400-plus employees. Their candies are exported to over 30 countries, making them available to over 1.5 billion people worldwide.

Innovation and dedicated employees have really been the source of the success of this company. Just Born was founded in 1923 in New York City by Samuel Born, a Russian immigrant. The company moved to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, in 1932 and under the leadership of Bob Born, Samuel's son, Just Born acquired a candy company in 1953 which manufactured by hand a small line of 3-D marshmallow products. The innovative Bob Born mechanized the process of making Peeps and dramatically increased the quantity of Peeps manufactured each year. Peeps once took 27 hours to make, they now take 6 minutes.

It is this innovative, entrepreneurial spirit, and great workers that make American manufacturers the best in the world, and Just Born continues to

lead the way among confectioners. If we do our part here in Congress to lessen government regulations, to expand trade opportunities and to lower taxes to encourage economic growth, we will see more success stories like Just Born, Inc.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Just Born and 3 generations of Lehigh Valley employees for sweetening America.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 151, PROSECUTORIAL REMEDIES AND TOOLS AGAINST THE EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN TODAY ACT OF 2003

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 188 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 188

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (S. 151) to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to the sexual exploitation of children. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Yesterday the Committee on Rules met and granted a "normal" conference report rule for S. 151, the Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to End the Exploitation of Children Today Act of 2003, or the PROTECT Act.

The rule waives all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration. Mr. Speaker, this should not be a controversial rule. It is the type of rule that we grant for every conference report that we consider in the House.

The PROTECT Act sends a clear message to those who prey upon children that if they commit these crimes, they will be punished. This legislation provides stronger penalties against kidnapping, ensures lifetime supervision of sexual offenders and kidnappers of children, gives law enforcement the tools it needs to effectively prosecute these crimes, and provides assistance to the community when a child is abducted.

To accomplish this, S. 151 establishes an AMBER Alert coordinator within the Department of Justice to assist States with their AMBER Alert plans. This coordination will eliminate gaps in the network, including gaps in interstate travel, work with States to encourage development of additional

AMBER plans, and serve as a nationwide point of contact.

The AMBER program is a voluntary partnership between law enforcement agencies and broadcasters to activate an urgent alert bulletin in serious child abduction cases. The goal of the AMBER Alert is to instantly galvanize the entire community to assist in the search for, and the safe return of, that child.

I am pleased that this legislation also authorizes \$20 million for fiscal year 2004 for the Secretary of Transportation to make grants to States for the development or enhancement of notification or communication systems along the highways. I am sure Members have seen those reader board signs. These signs are for alerts and other information for the recovery of abducted children. Doing this will enable all 50 States to implement this life-saving program, and we have seen several examples of it working lately to literally save children's lives.

For those individuals who would harm a child, we must ensure that punishment is severe and that sexual predators are not allowed to slip through the cracks of the system to harm other children. To this end, this legislation provides a 20-year mandatory minimum sentence of imprisonment for stranger abductions of a child under the age of 18, lifetime supervision for sex offenders and mandatory life imprisonment for second-time offenders; and we all know that is a very common occurrence.

This responds to the long-standing concerns of Federal judges and prosecutors regarding the inadequacy of the existing supervision period for sex offenders, particularly for the perpetrators of child sexual abuse crimes, whose criminal conduct may reflect deep-seated deviant sexual disorders, and they are not likely to disappear within a few years of release from prison.

Furthermore, S. 151 removes any statute of limitation and opportunity for pretrial release for crimes of child abduction and sex offenses. Oftentimes it is years later that sex offenses come to light because a child is afraid to speak out. That is why this conference report is so important. Not only does it come to the aid of the children after the abduction with the AMBER Alert, it aims to prevent the abduction with the provisions I just mentioned.

I also want to applaud the conferees for including legislation authored by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) that would punish those who use misleading domain names to attract children to sexually explicit Internet sites. It accomplishes this goal by increasing the penalties and provides prosecutors with enhanced tools to prosecute those seeking to lure children to porn Web sites. As a mother and grandmother, it is hard for me to understand how anyone can prey on a defenseless child.